

HOUSE BILL 1014  
By Davidson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 43; Title 44; Title 67 and Title 68, to establish agricultural and health programs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The department of agriculture shall develop and implement the Beef Genetic Improvement program, hereinafter "BGI" or "the program". The purpose of BGI is to allow Tennessee farmers, specifically those with small cow-calf operations twenty-five to fifty (25-50) head, access to genetically superior breeding stock that such farmers would not otherwise be able to utilize due to financial limitations. According to the department's estimates, if BGI increases the average market weight of Tennessee feeder calves by twenty pounds (20 lbs.) an additional eleven million two hundred thousand (\$11,200,000) dollars would be added annually to the state's agricultural receipts.

SECTION 2. The financial component of BGI shall consist of a low-interest loan program to enable Tennessee producers to purchase or lease genetically superior herd sires and bred or open females for their cattle herds.

SECTION 3. In order to provide educational support to such producers, the department of agriculture shall form a partnership with the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Extension Service. The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Extension service shall

develop an educational program relative to the genetic improvement of commercial cow-calf operations and provide assistance to producers who qualify for loans in selecting premium sires and females. Such educational program shall include information outlining the added benefits of marketing future genetically superior cattle through graded sales venues and preconditioned sales. Additional technical support for the educational program shall be provided by livestock graders from the department of agriculture.

SECTION 4. The commissioner of agriculture is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 5. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds, and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.